

Highlights of the Oklahoma Youth Tobacco Survey (OYTS) 2021 – 2022

Presentation to the TSET Board
August 31, 2022



Introduction

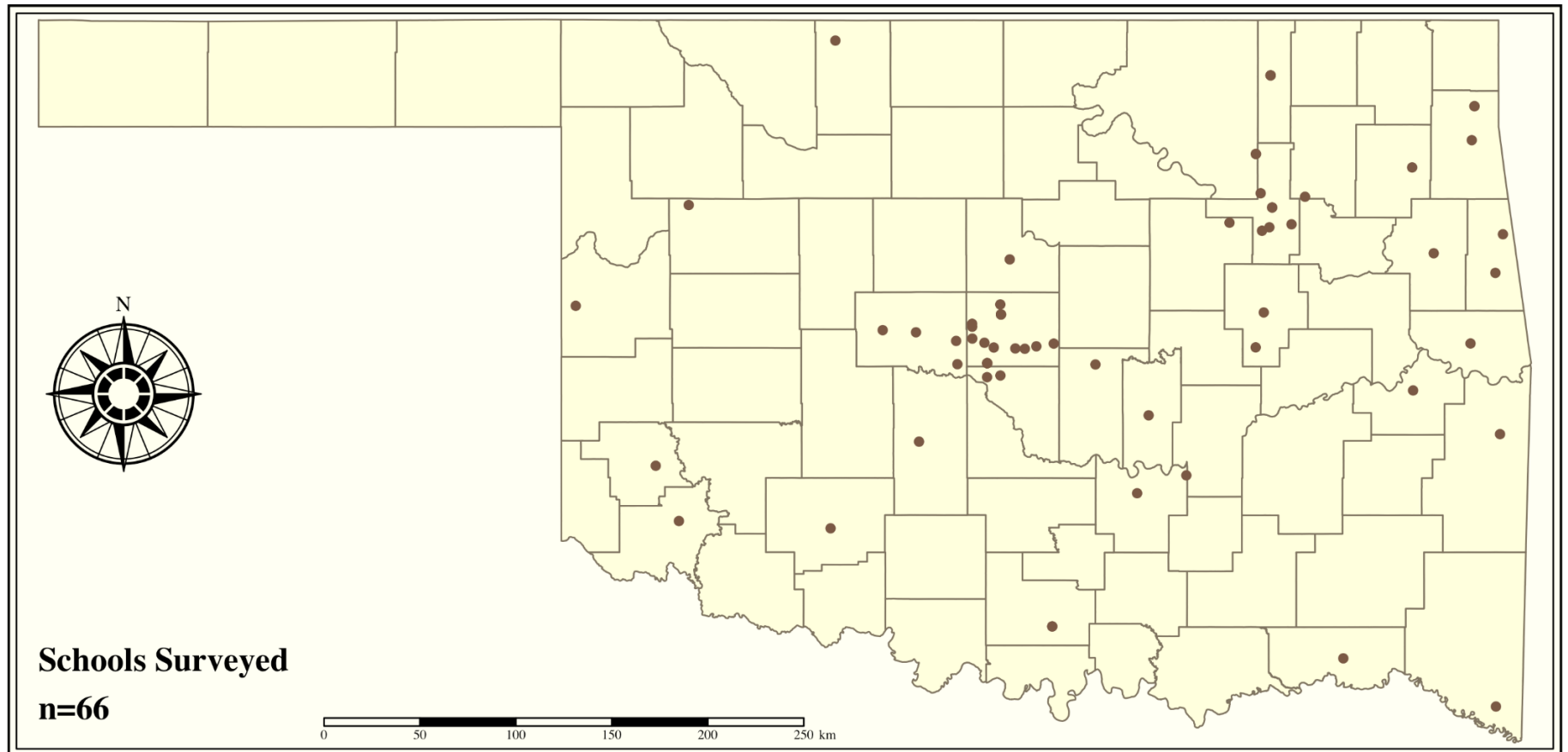


- The Oklahoma Youth Tobacco Survey (OYTS) includes students in Oklahoma public schools, grades 6-12.
- The OYTS asks questions about knowledge, attitudes, behavior, access, media, and susceptibility to nicotine and tobacco.
- The OYTS is a project of the Oklahoma State Department of Health and was previously conducted biennially between the years 1999 and 2015.
- During the pause in data collection from 2016-2021, we used tobacco prevalence data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) for high school students.

Methods

- Survey was administered November 2021 – May 2022
- **30** middle schools and **36** high schools participated.
- **1318** middle school and **1220** high school students completed surveys.
- Questions on the Oklahoma Youth Tobacco Survey (OYTS) mirror the 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS).
- A list of all public schools was provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Multi-stage sampling of schools, then classrooms within school.
- Online survey administration
- Data was weighted to make the results more generalizable to all Oklahoma public school students.

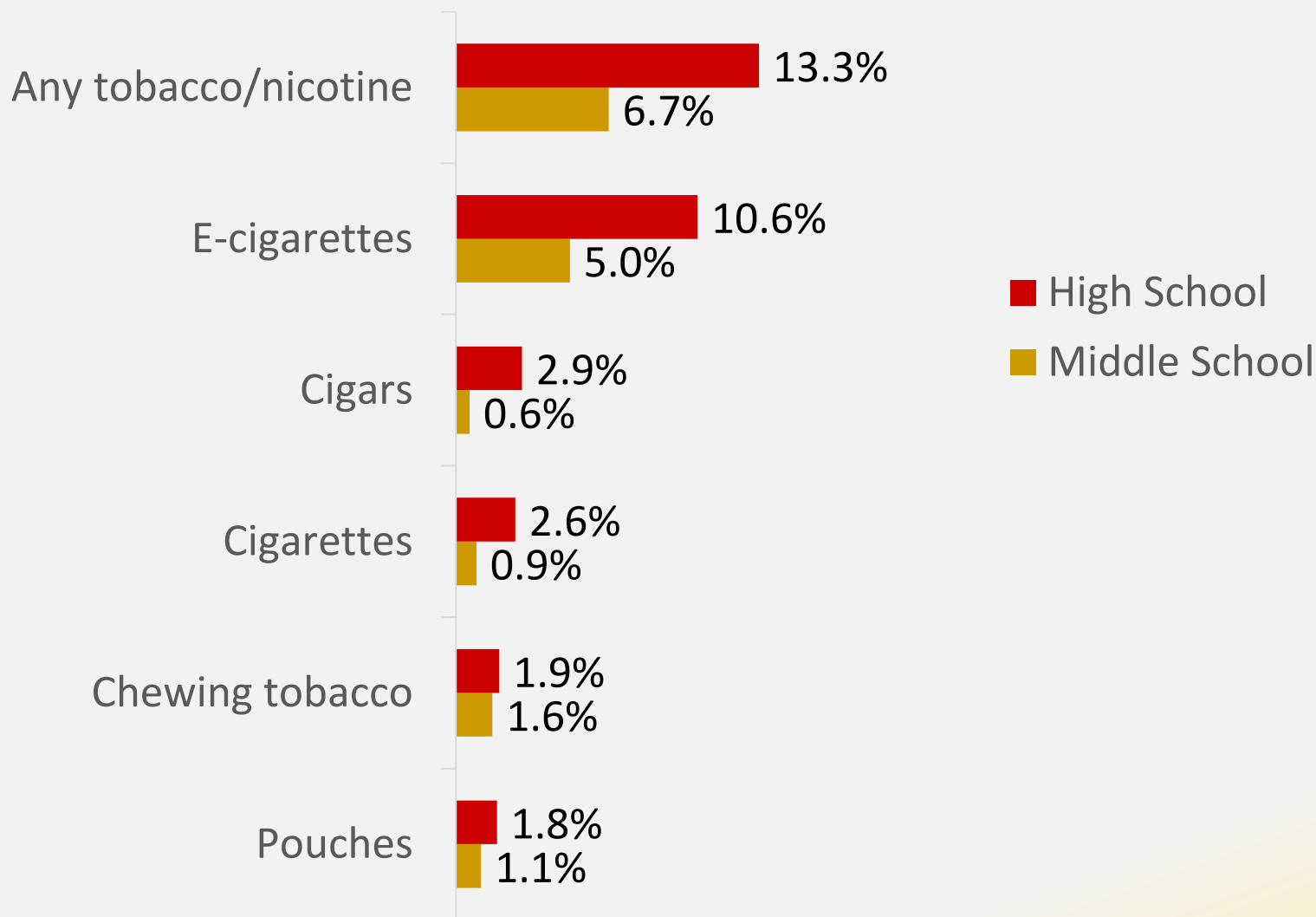
Methods: Participating schools



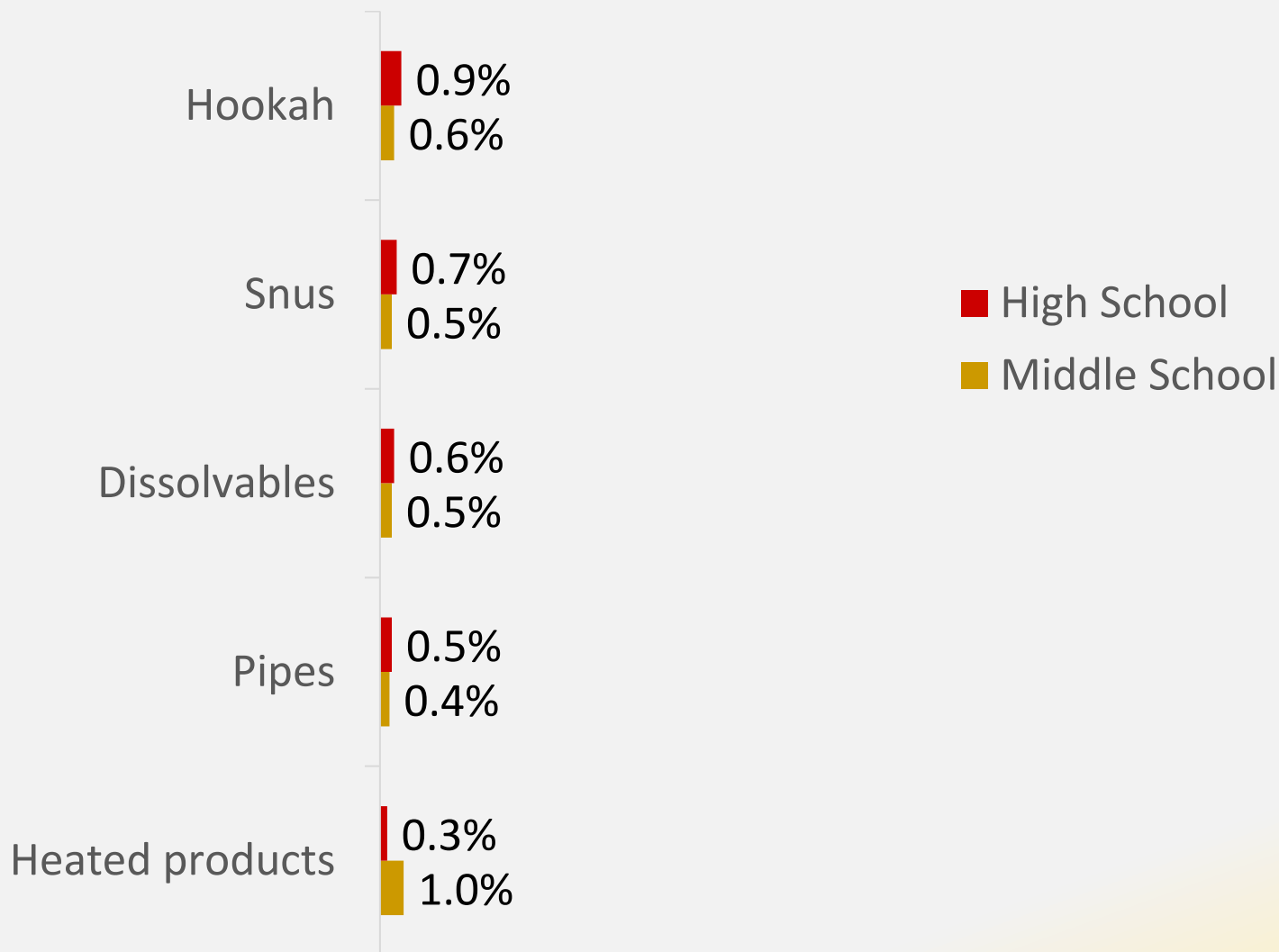
RESULTS

KEY FINDINGS

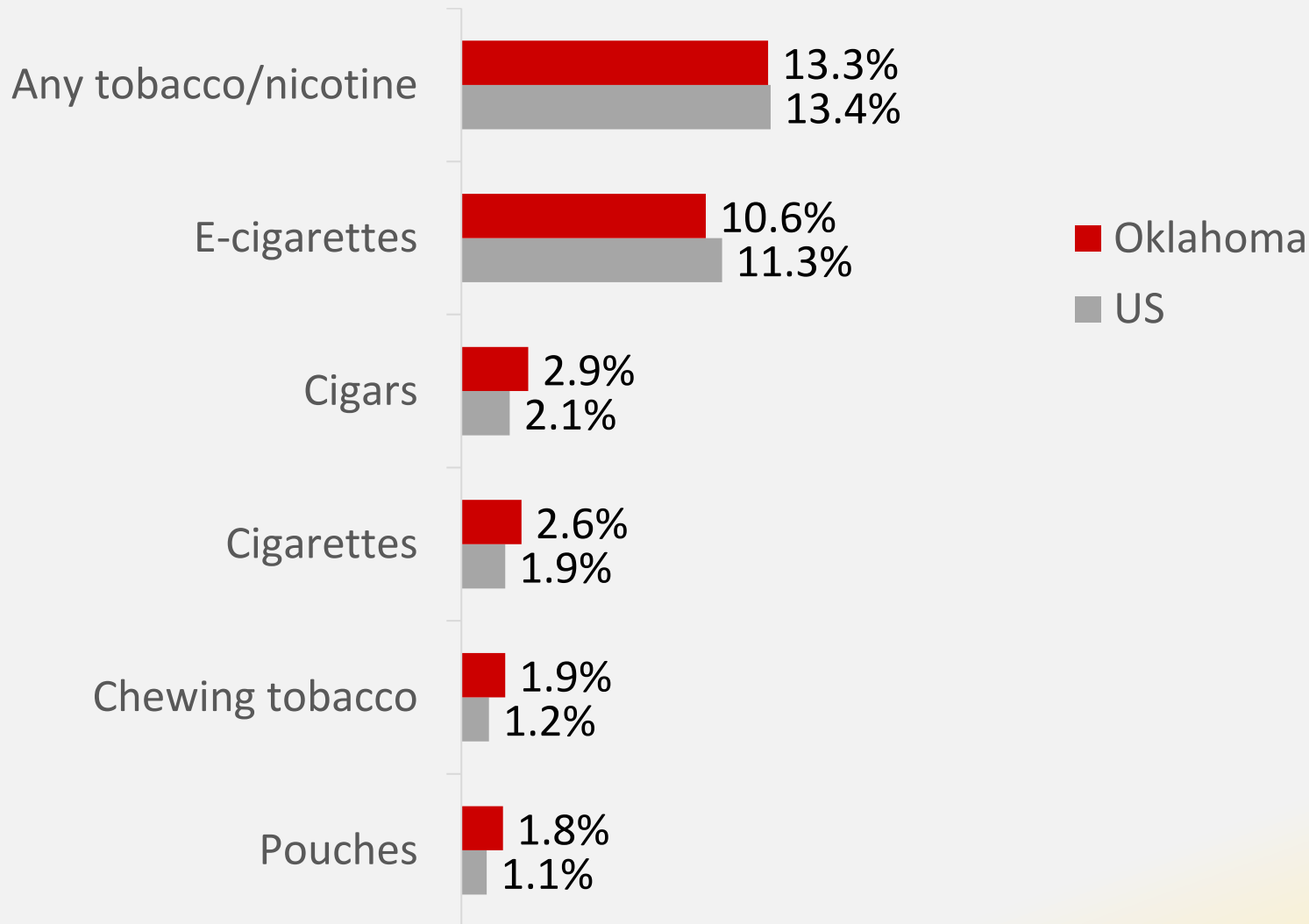
Current use of tobacco/nicotine products



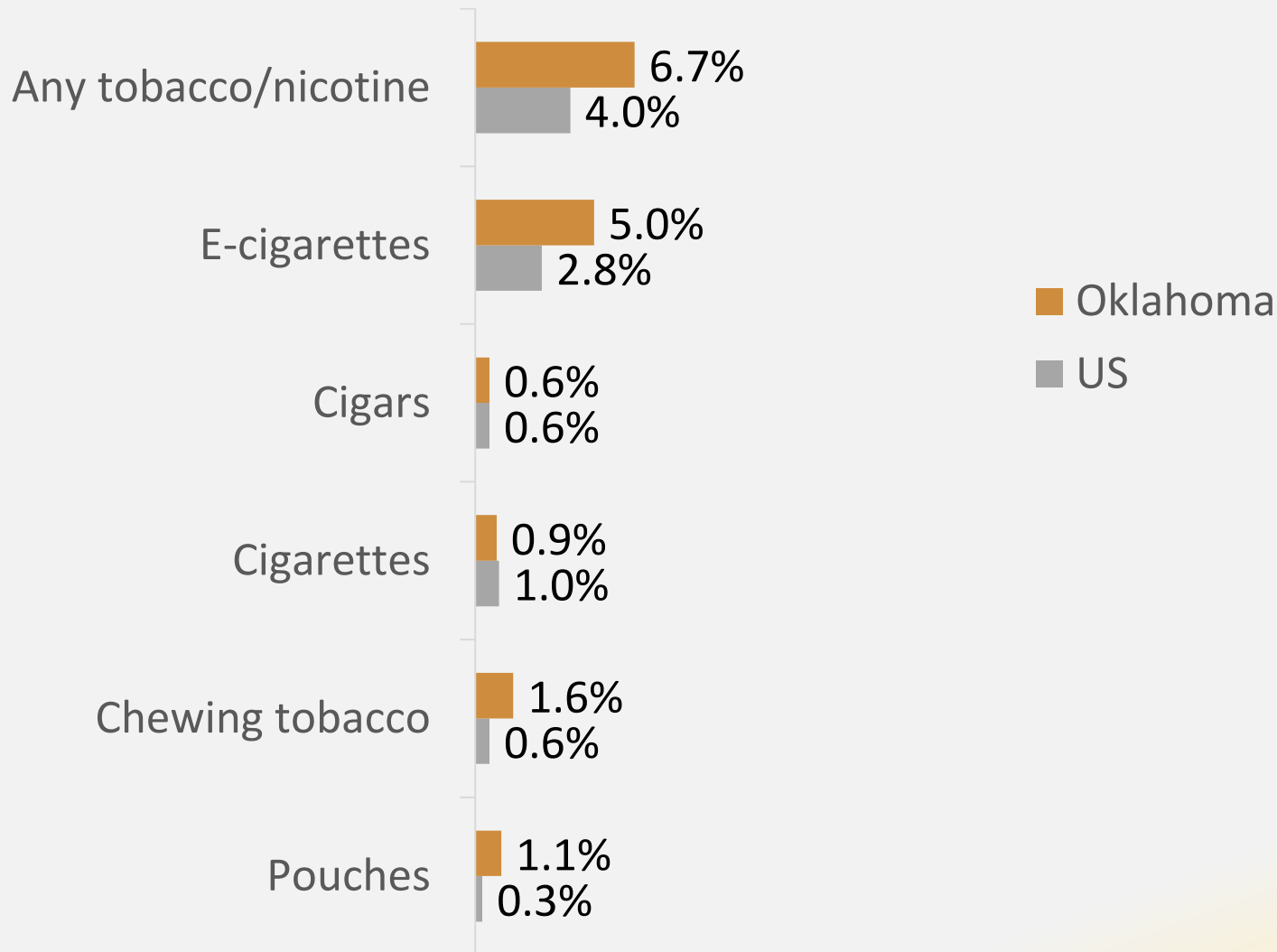
Current use of tobacco/nicotine products (cont)



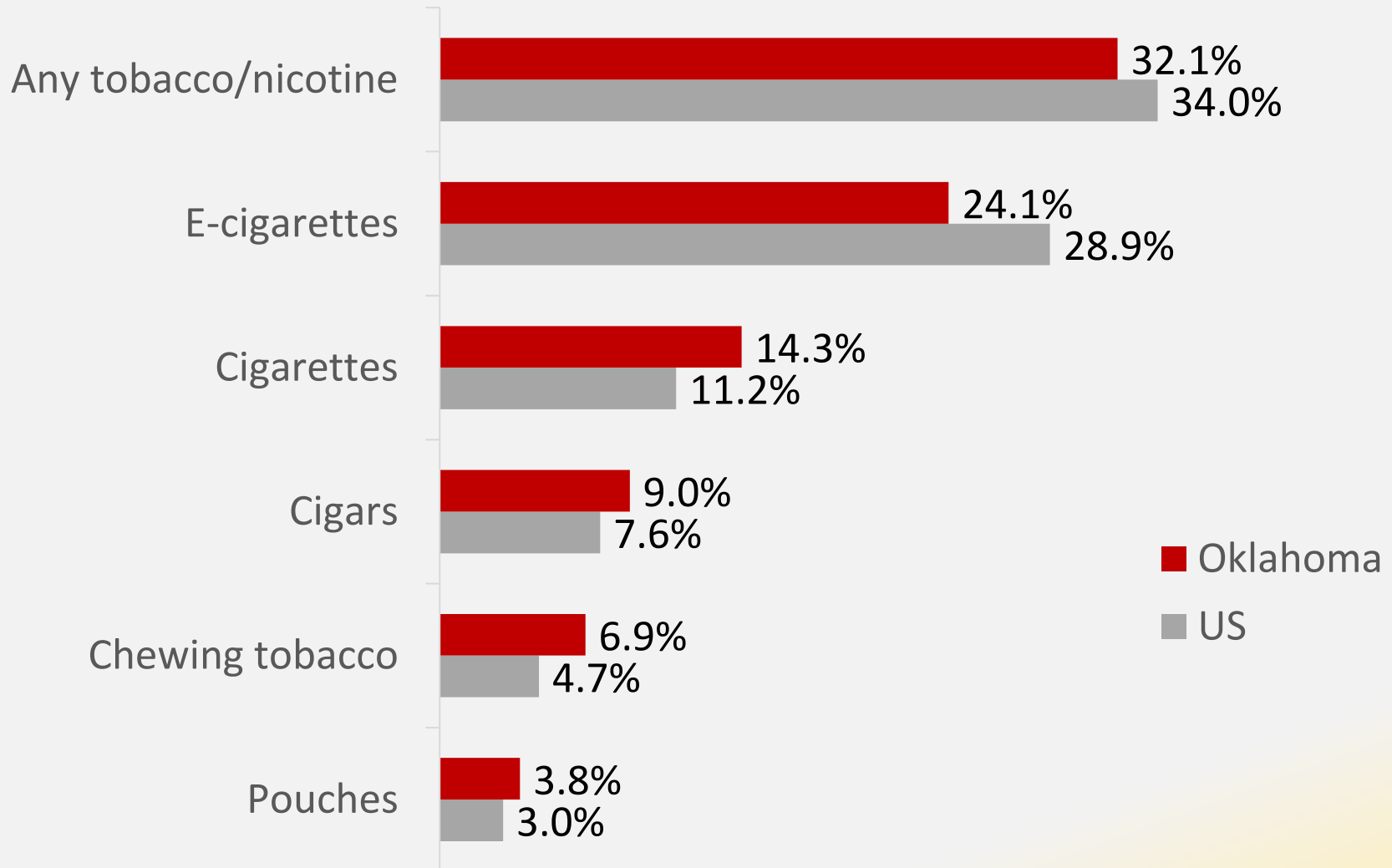
Current use of tobacco/nicotine products: High School



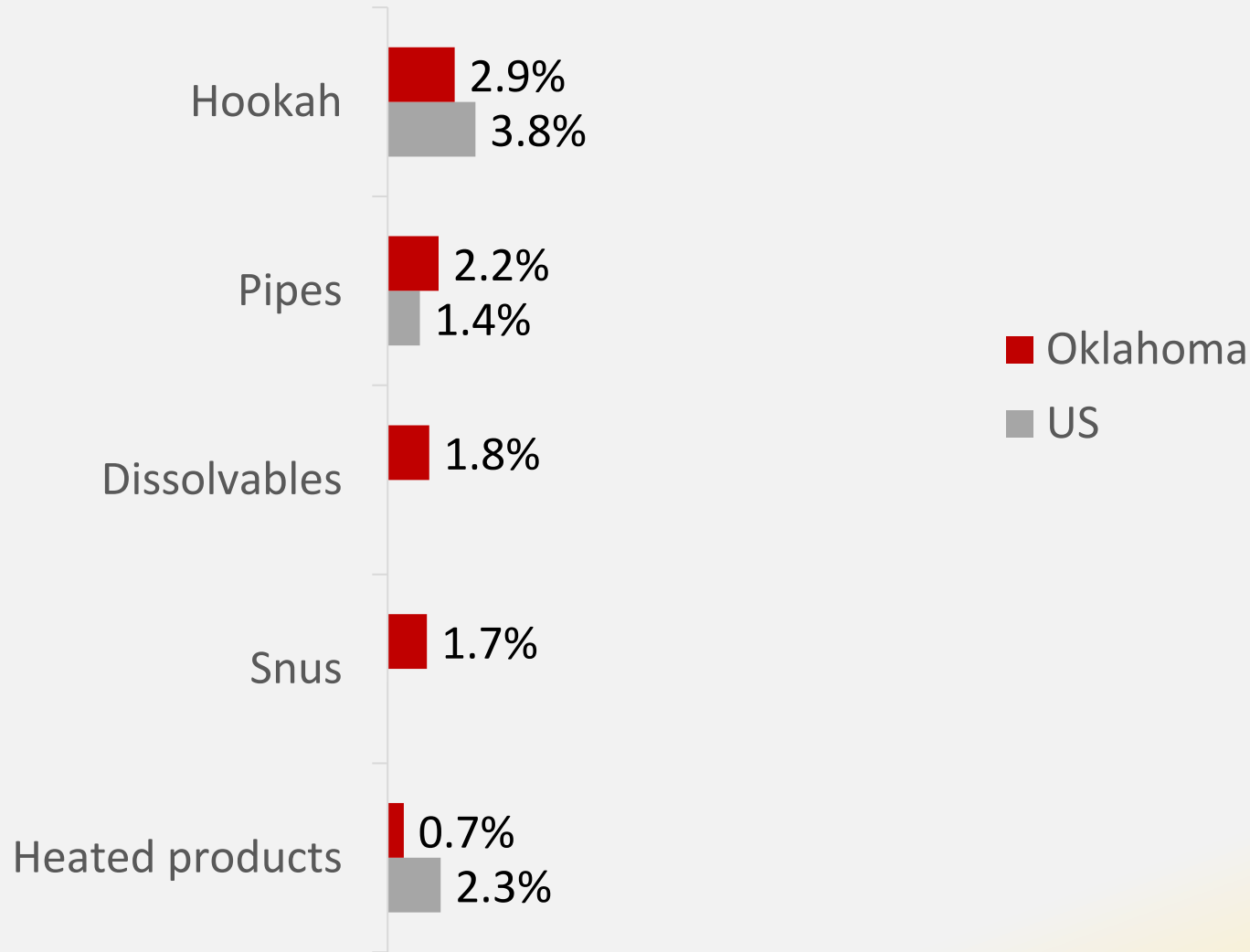
Current use of tobacco/nicotine products: Middle School



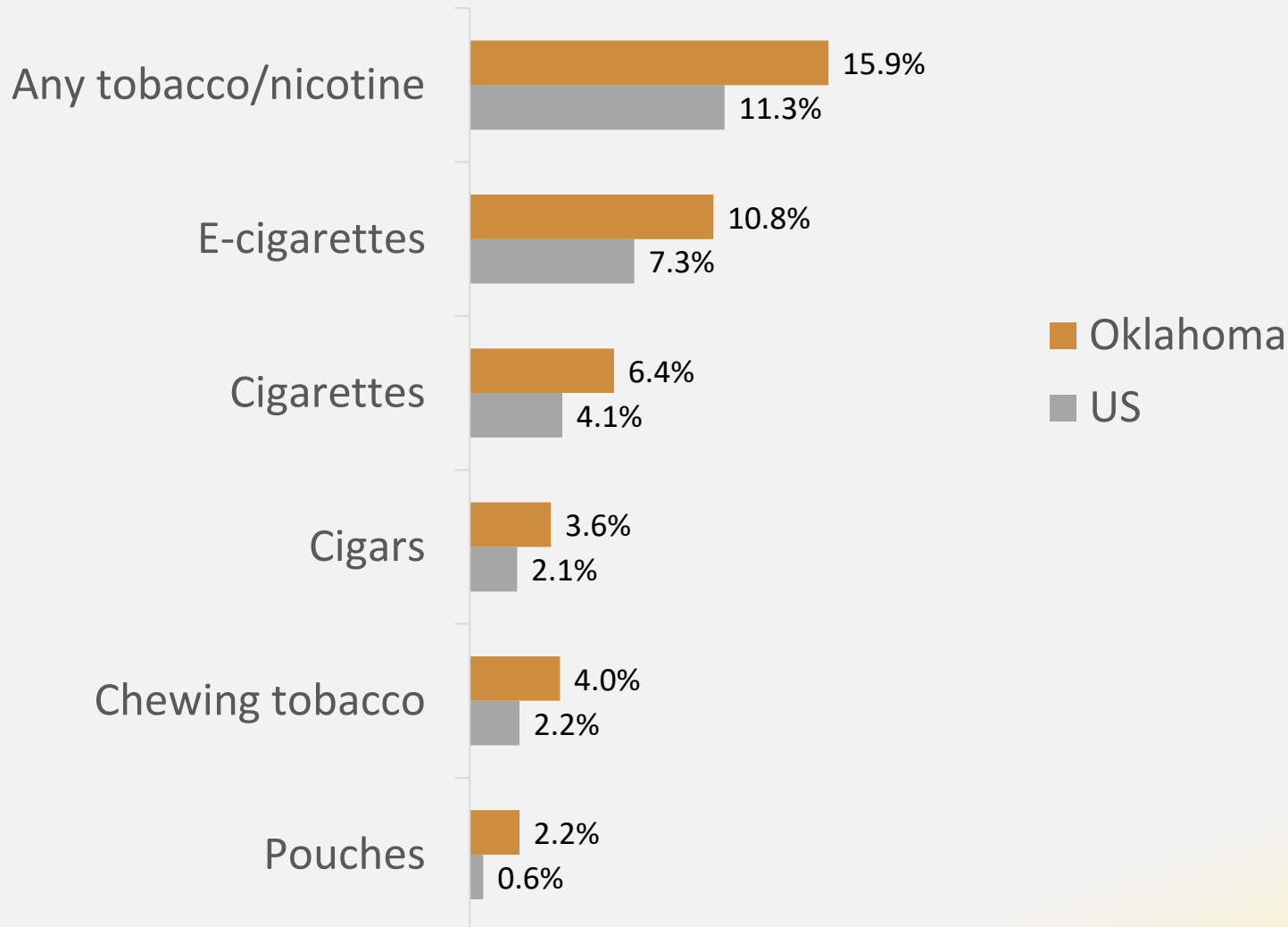
Ever use of tobacco/nicotine products: High School



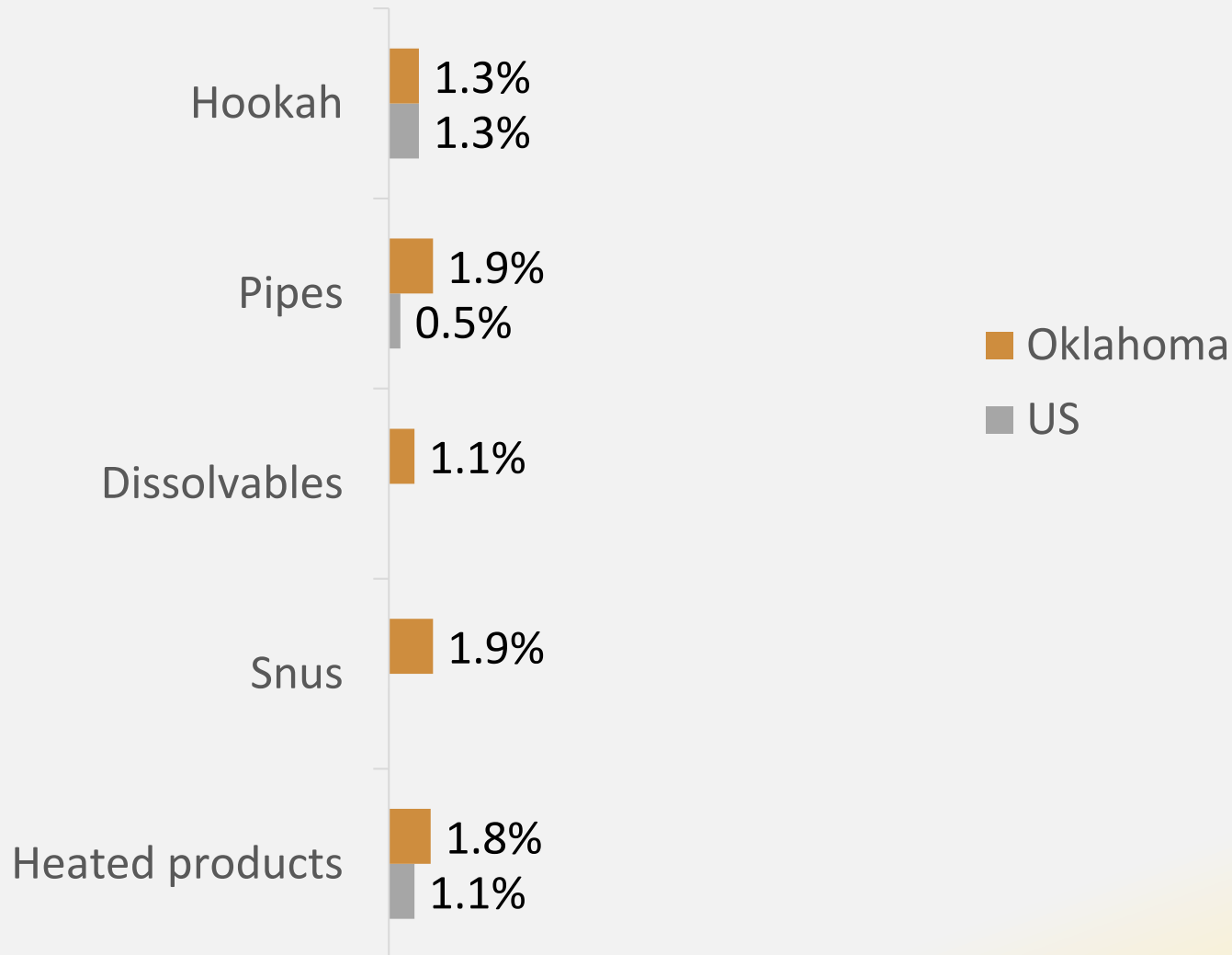
Ever use of tobacco/nicotine products: High School (cont)



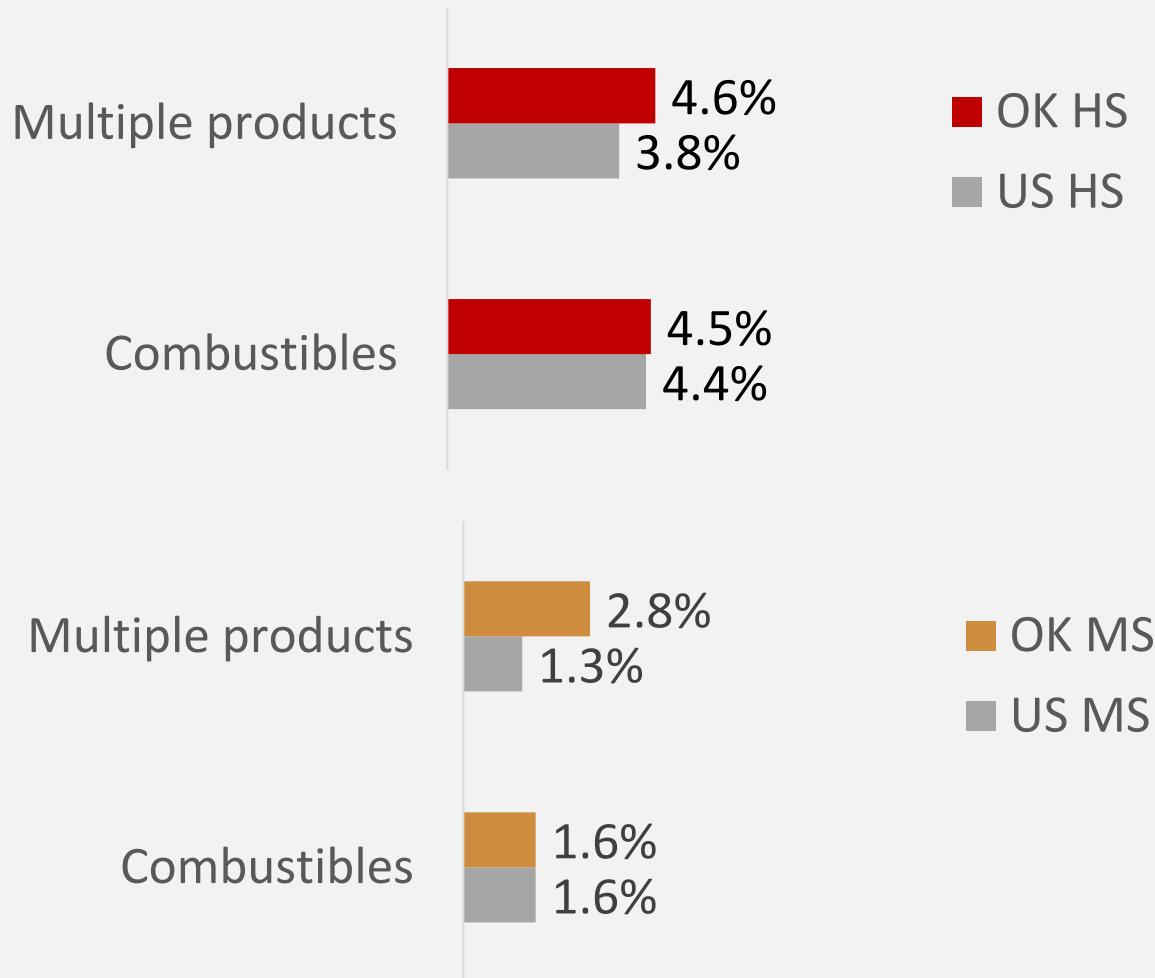
Ever use of tobacco/nicotine products: Middle School



Ever use of tobacco/nicotine products: Middle School (cont)

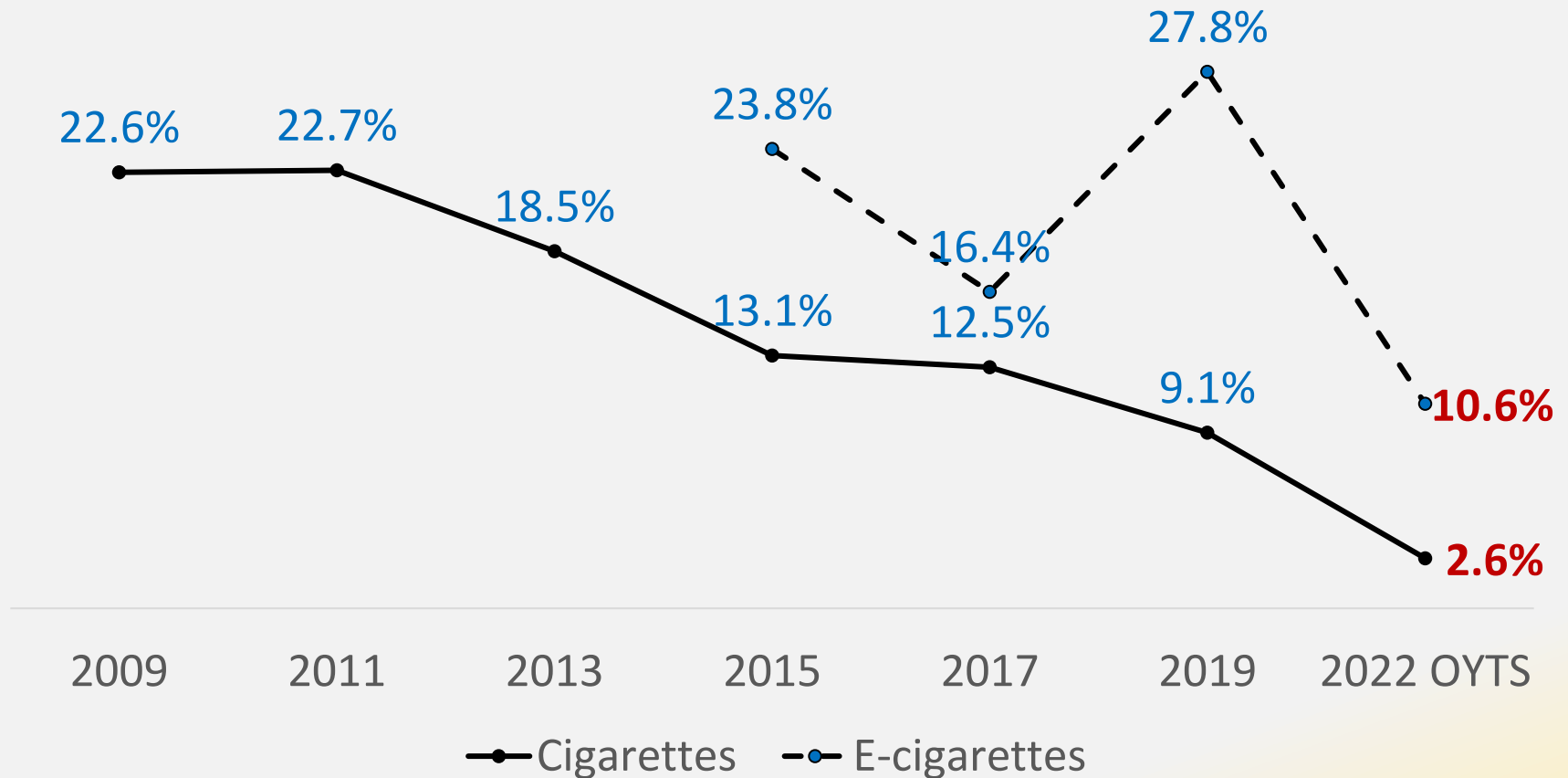


Current use of any combustible product and multiple tobacco/nicotine products

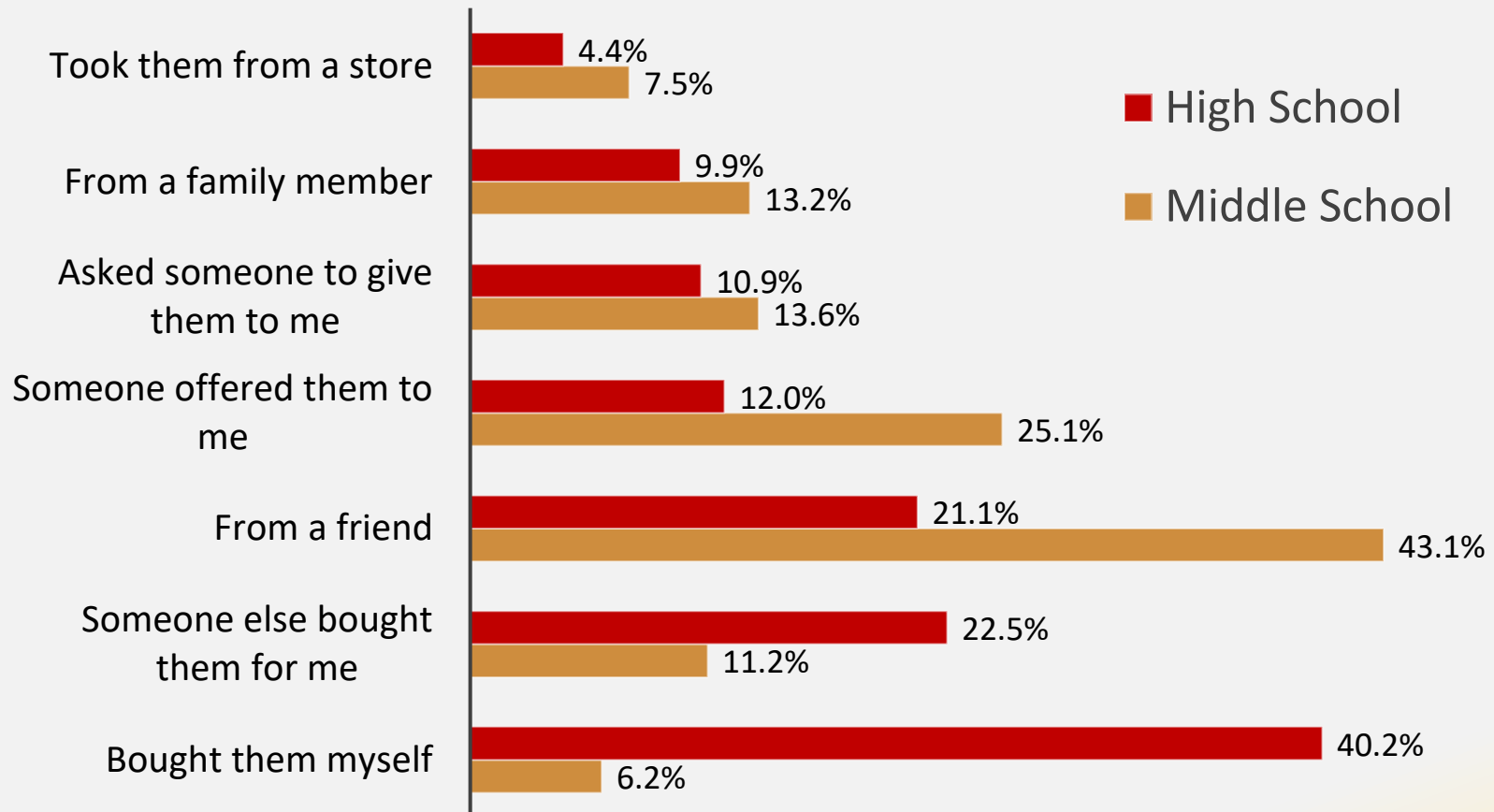


Current use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes over time, High School

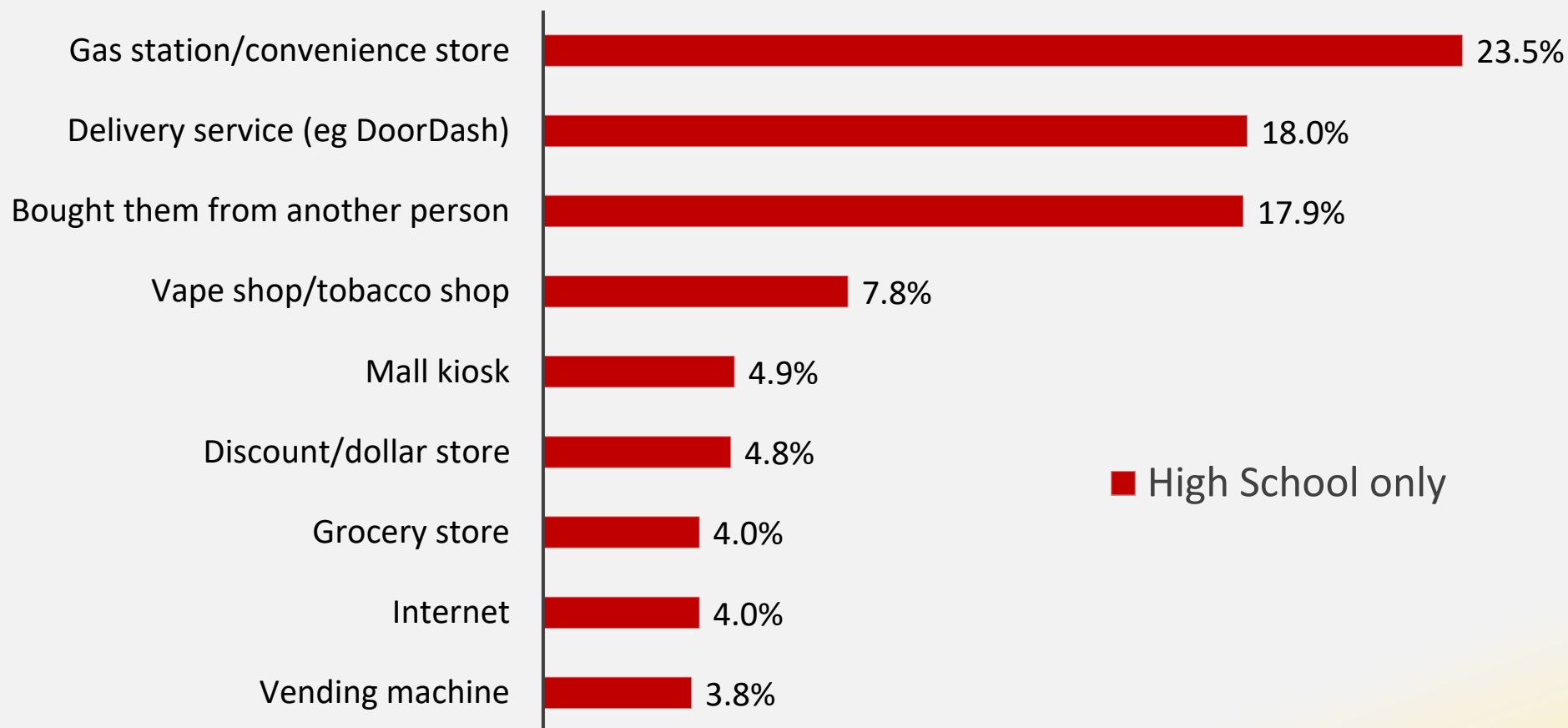
OYRBS (2009 – 2019) and OYTS (2022)



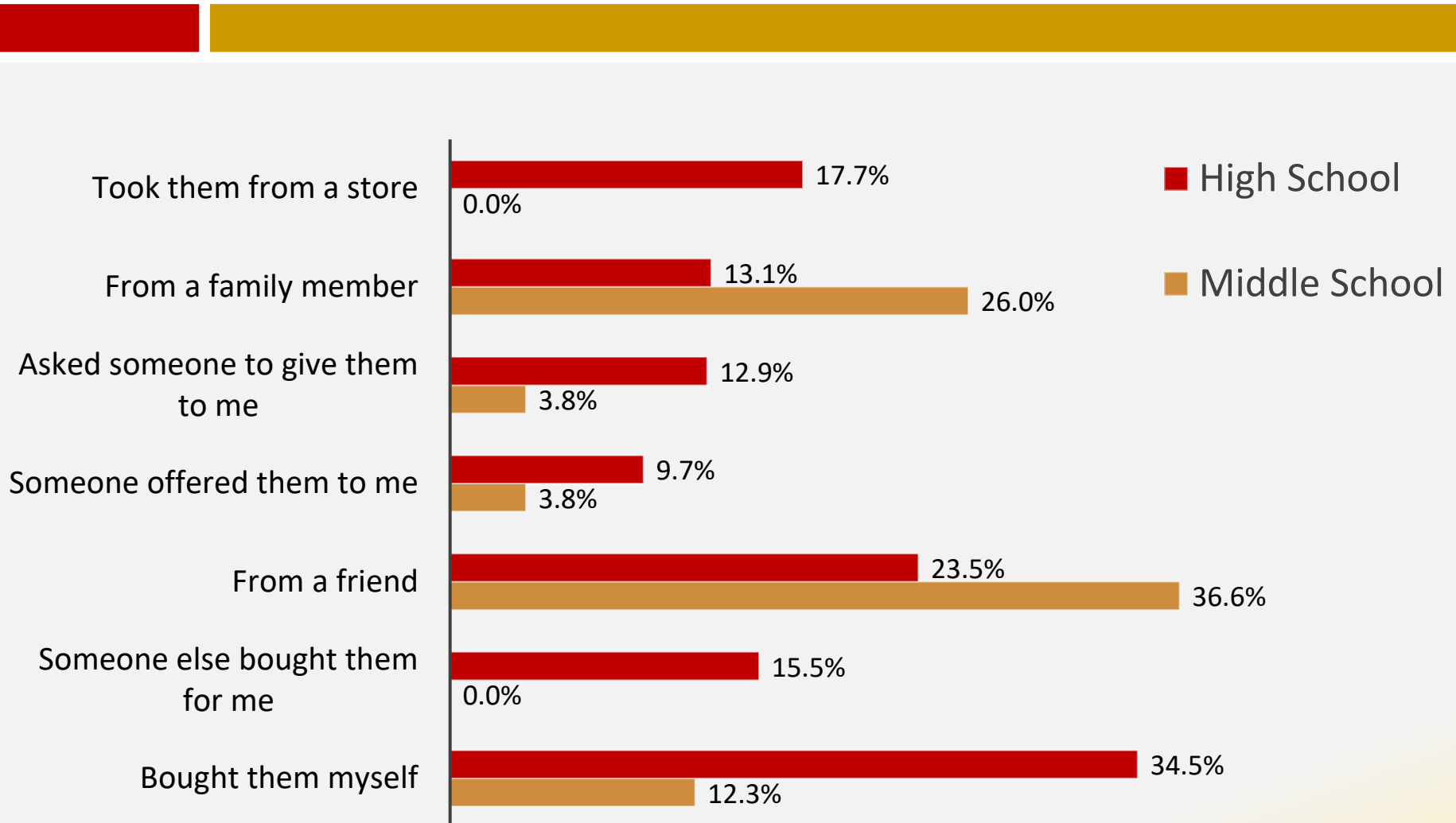
E-cigarettes: How did you get your e-cigarettes?



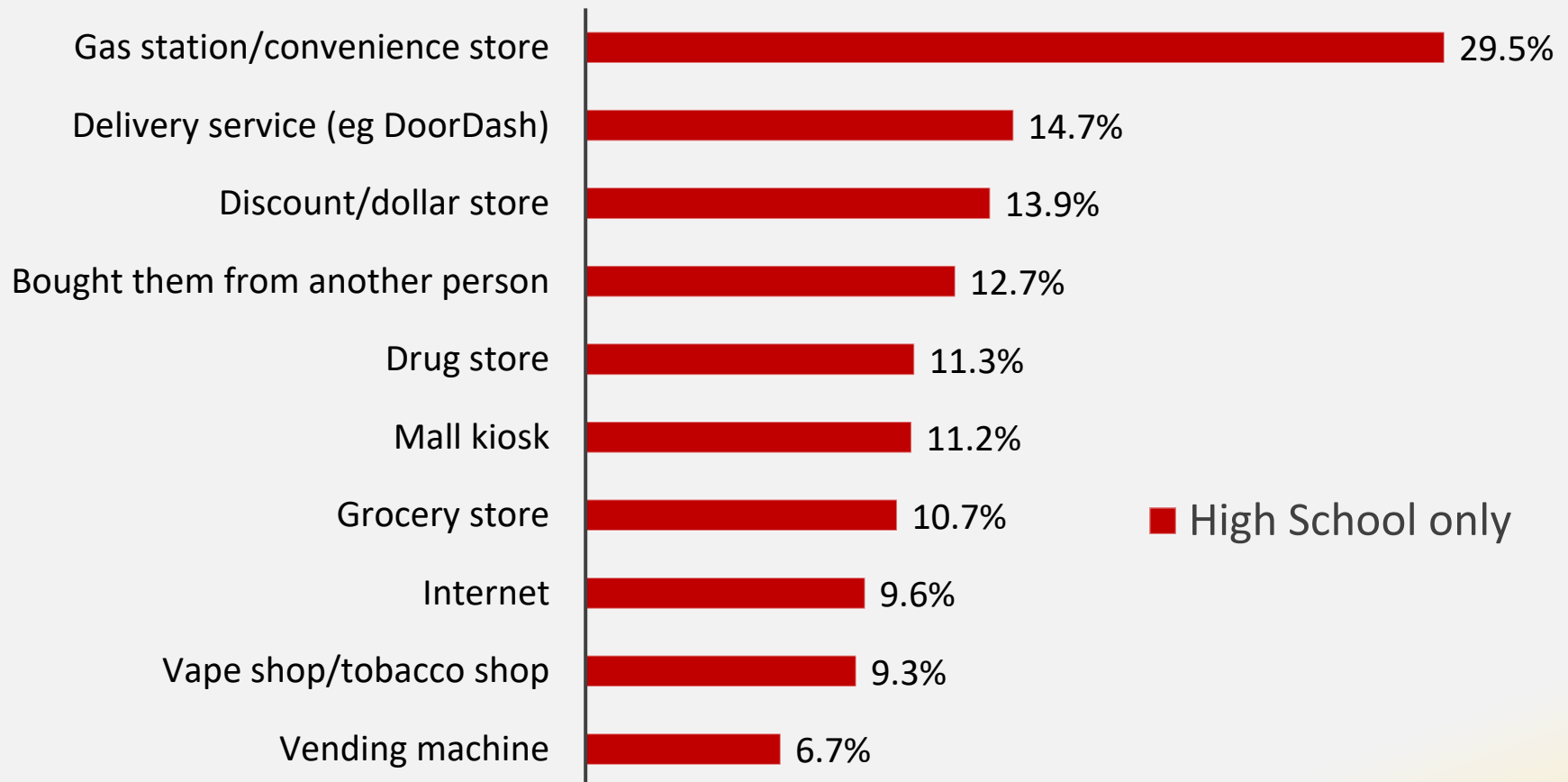
E-cigarettes: Where did you buy your e-cigarettes?



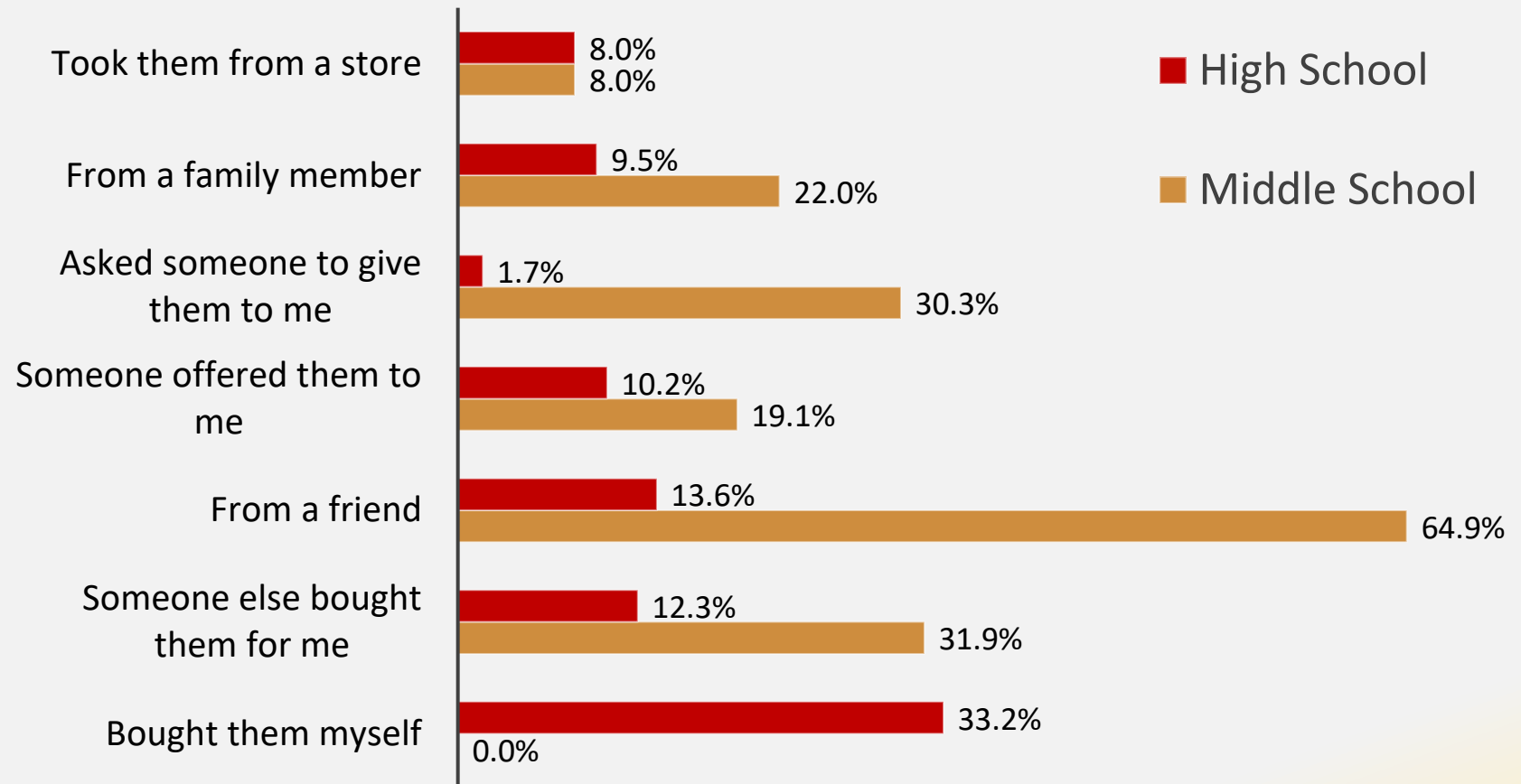
Cigarettes: How did you get your cigarettes?



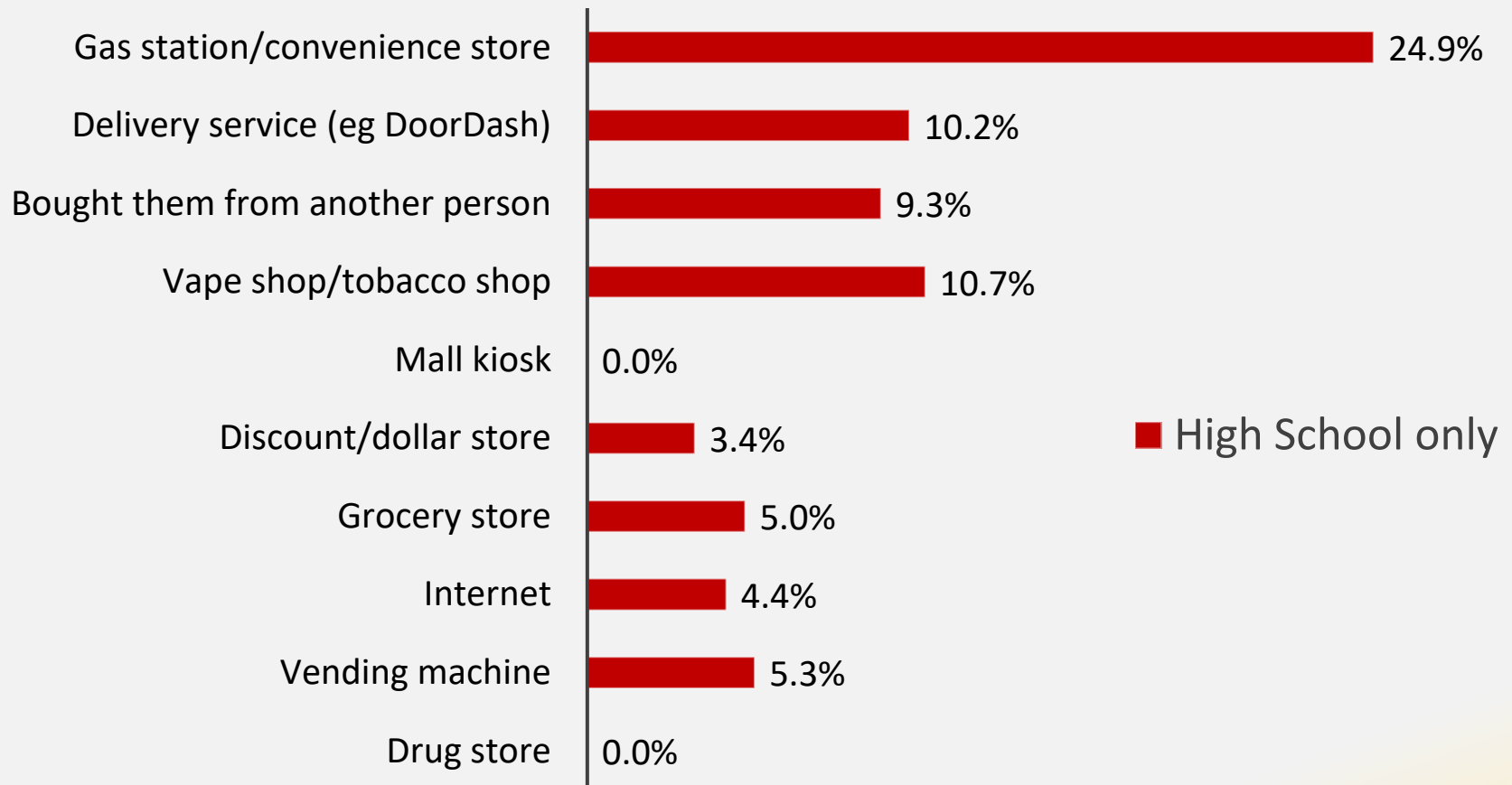
Cigarettes: Where did you buy your cigarettes?



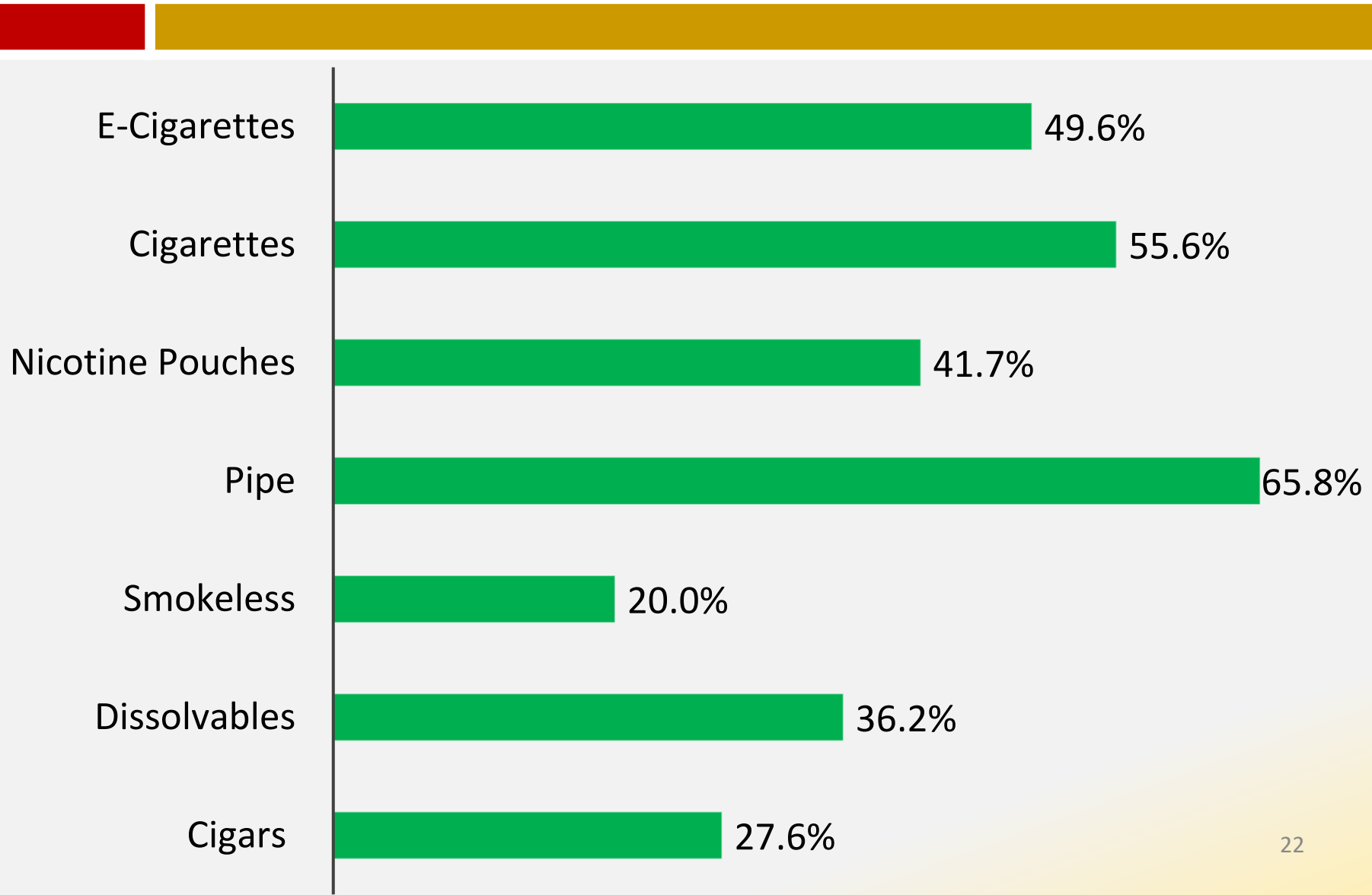
Cigars: How did you get your cigars?



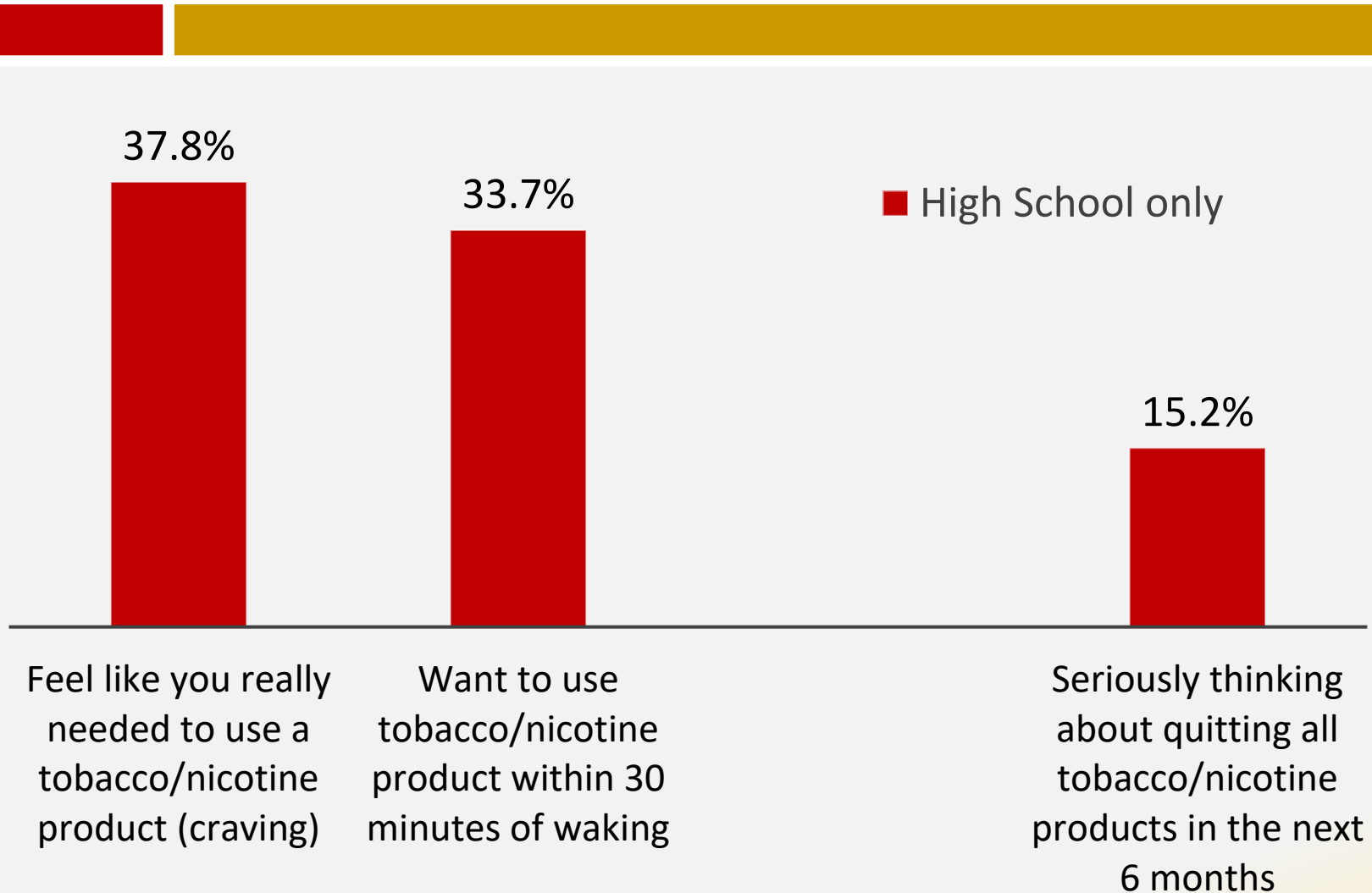
Cigars: Where did you buy your cigars?



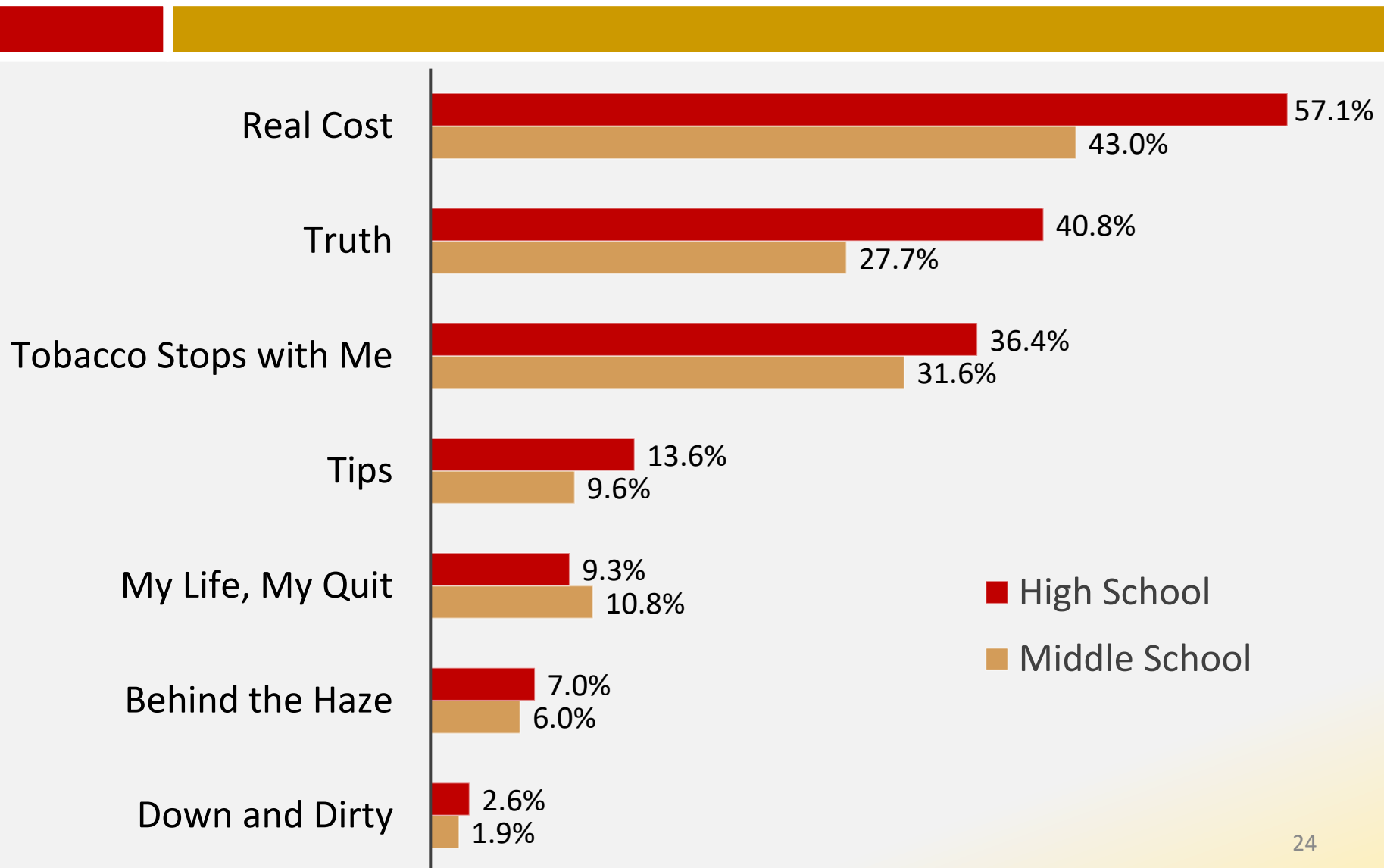
Use of **menthol** flavored tobacco/nicotine product (among **High School** students who used in past 30 days)



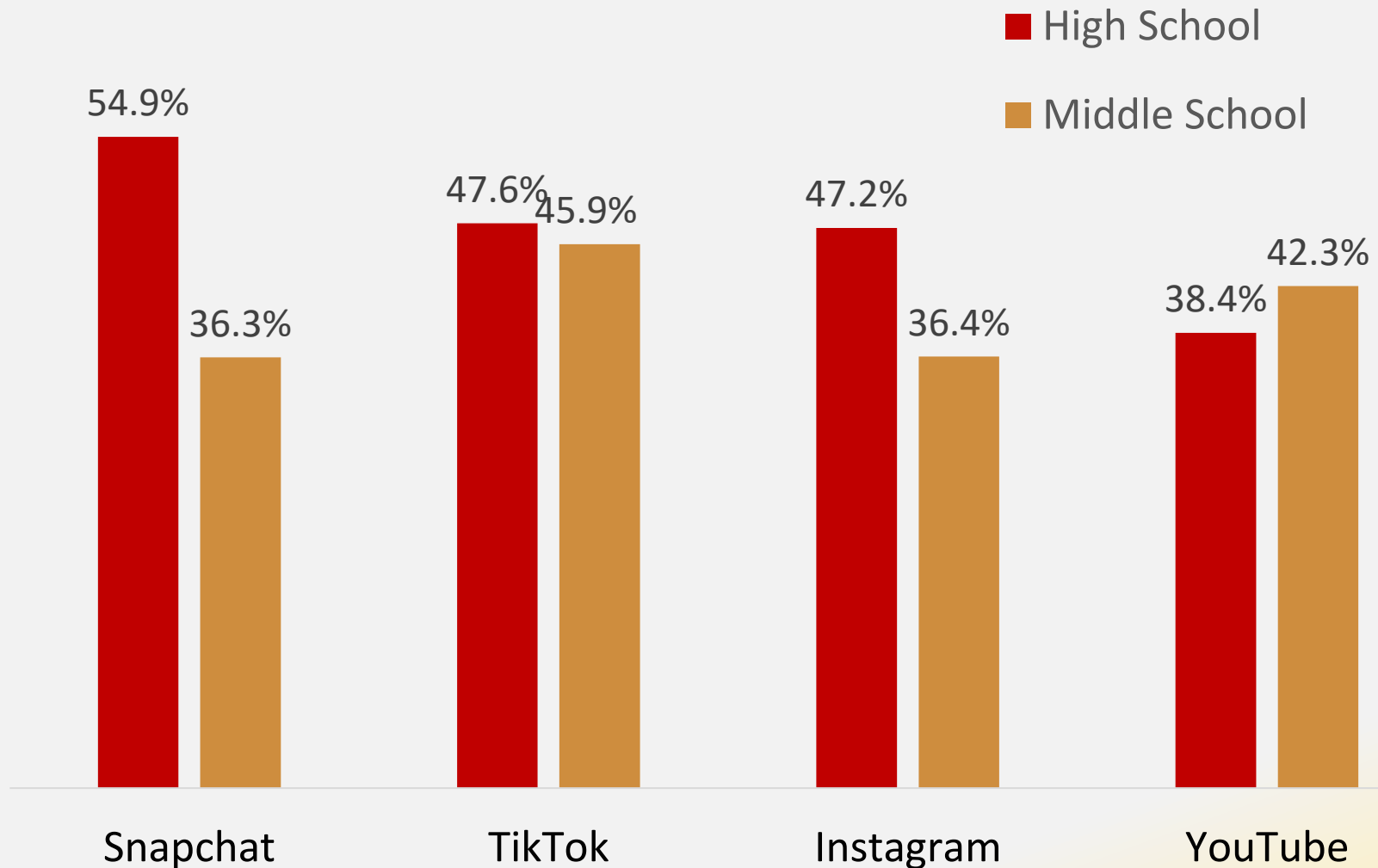
Dependence among **High School** students who currently use any tobacco/nicotine product



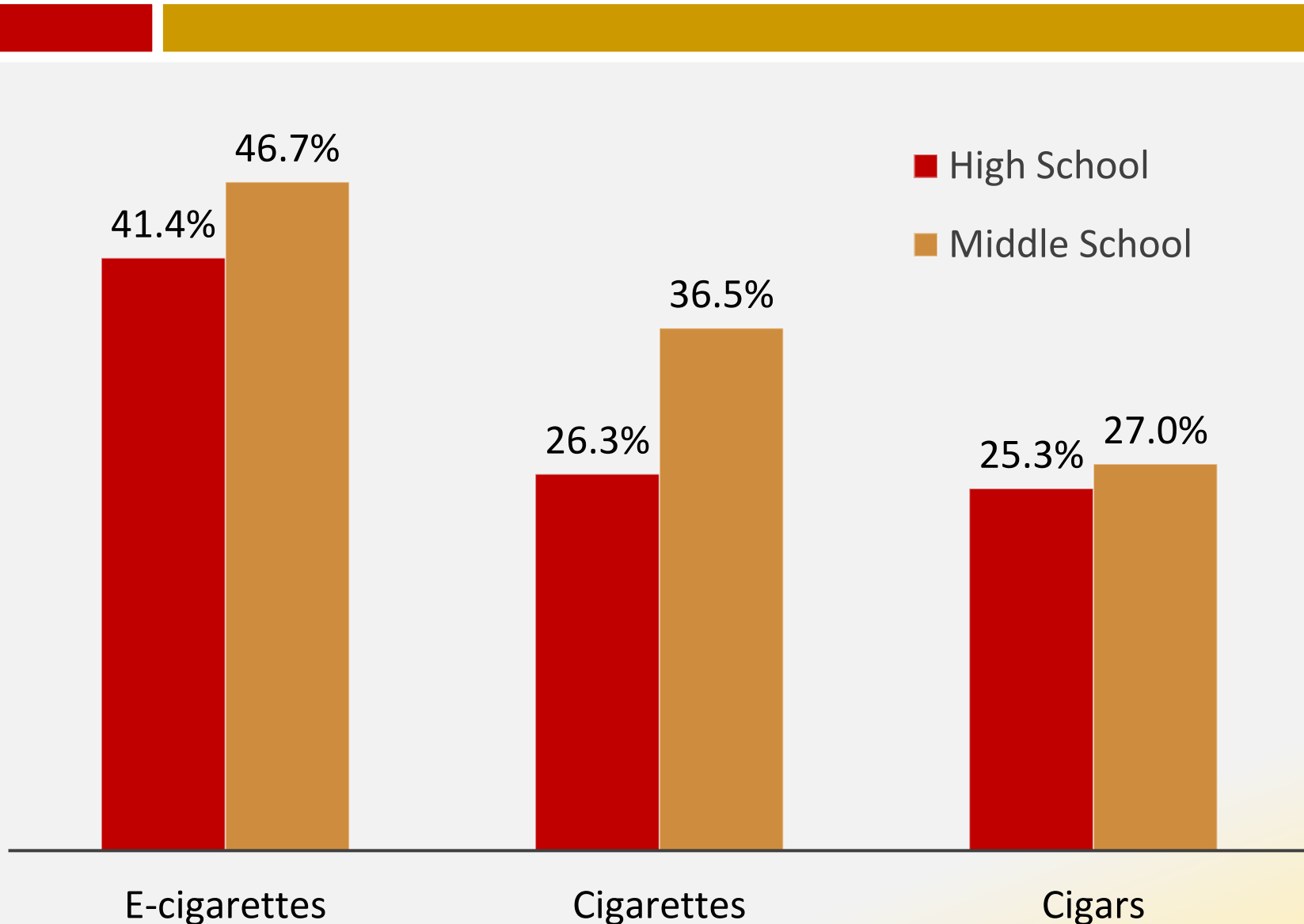
Recognition of tobacco prevention campaigns in the past 12 months



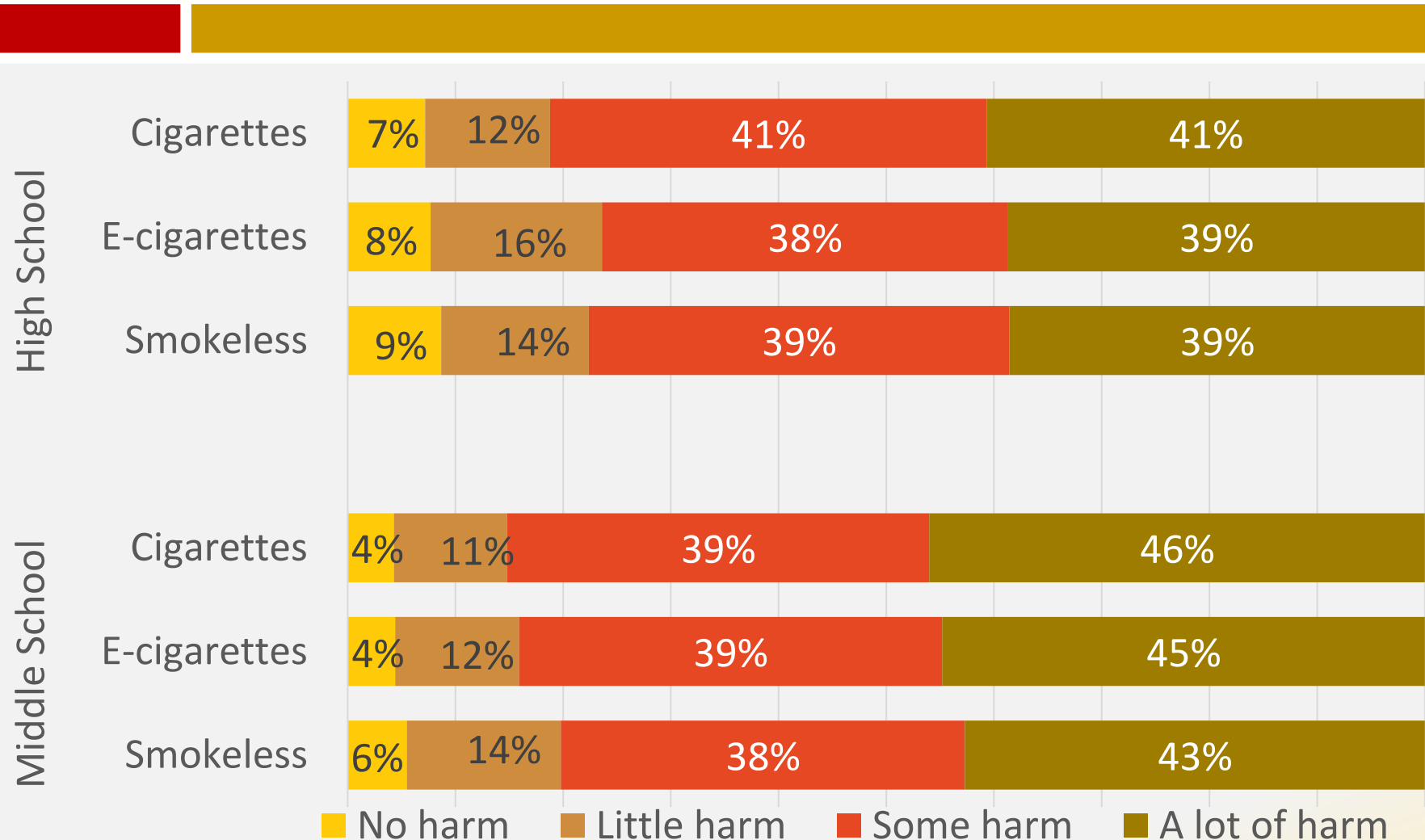
Exposure to e-cigarettes by social media site



Susceptibility to using e-cigarettes, cigarettes, or cigars during the next 12 months

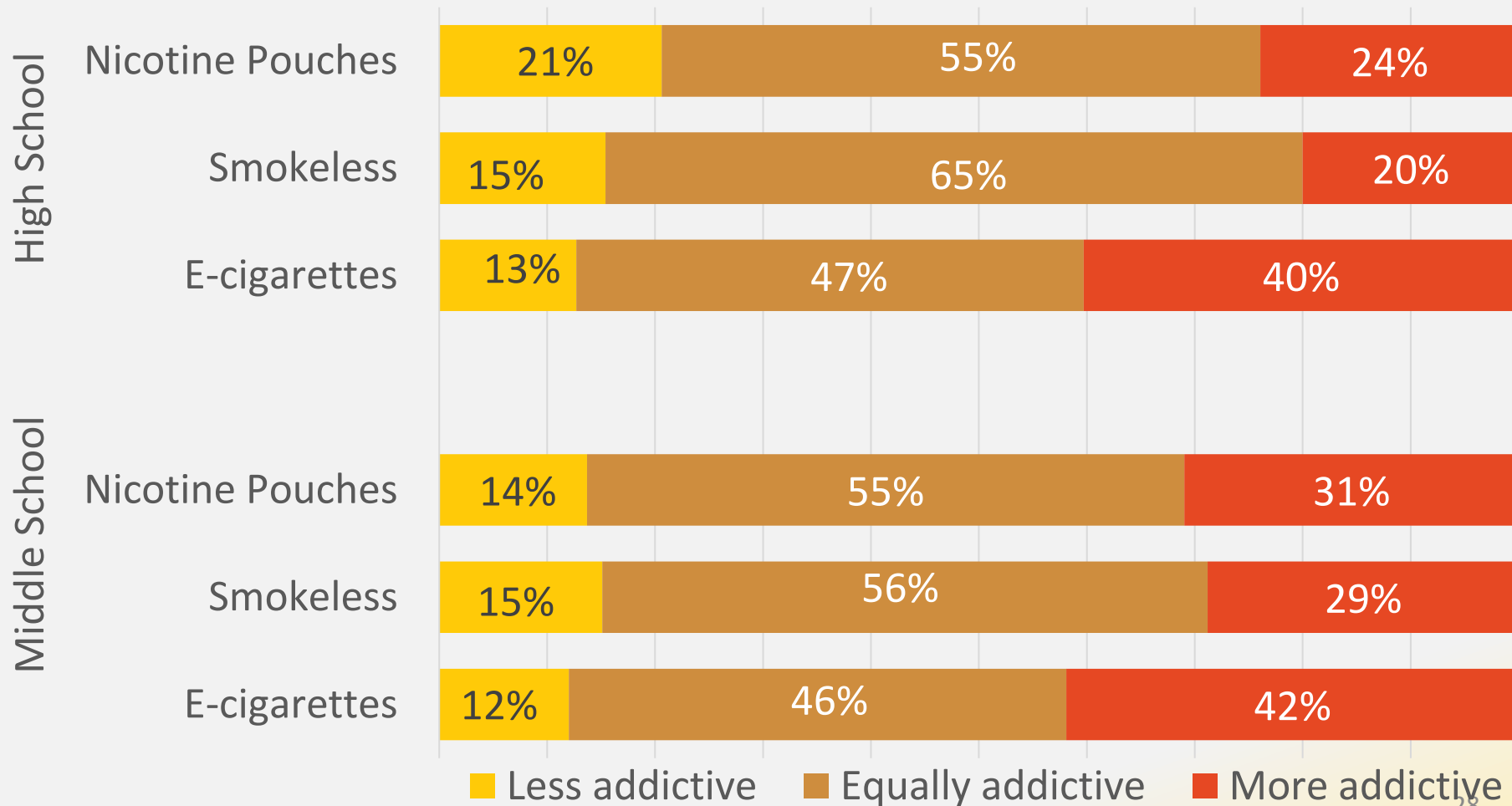


Harm perception of intermittent use* of select tobacco products

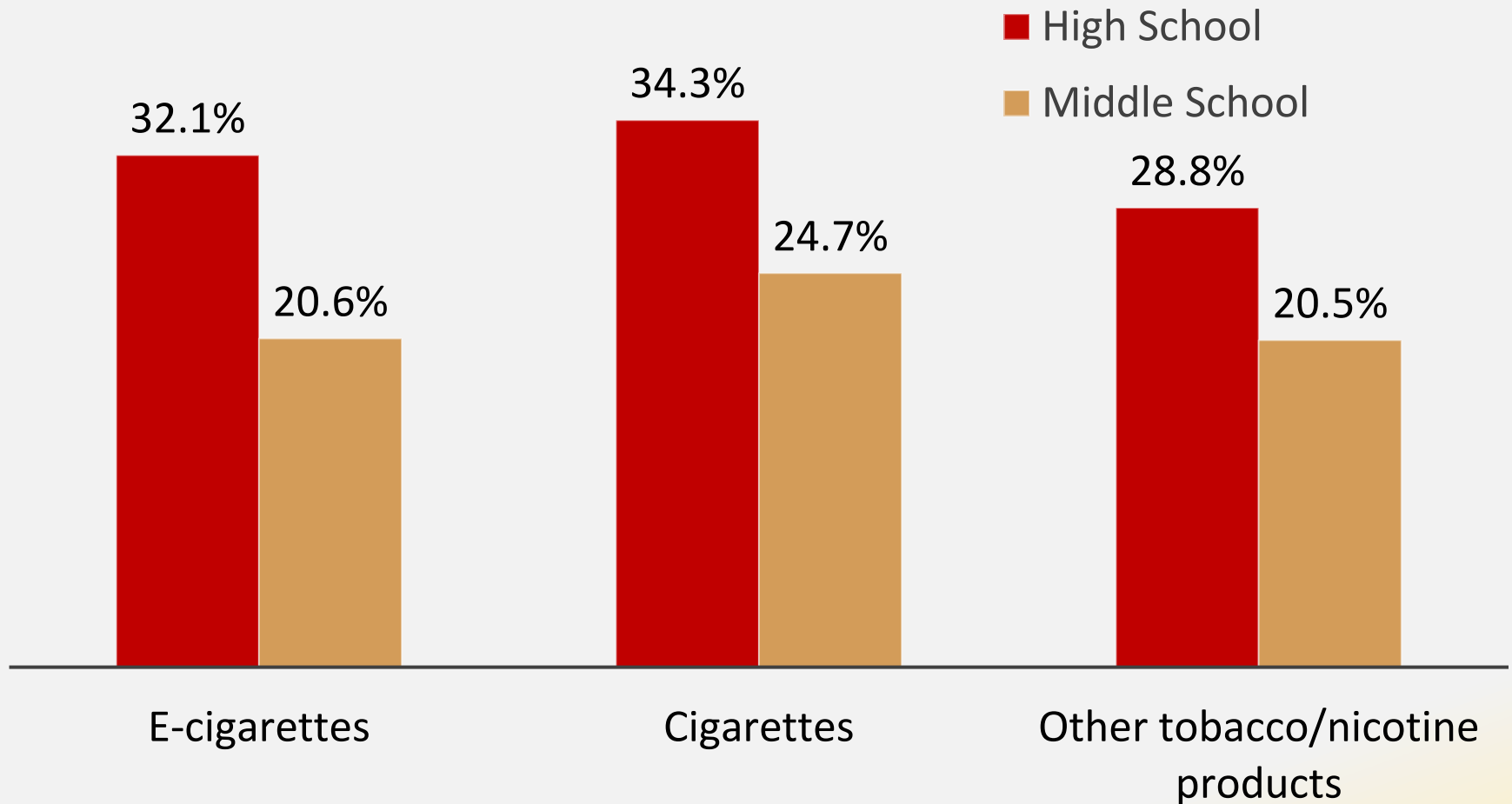


*Intermittent use = use on some days but not every day

Perceptions of addictiveness relative to cigarettes

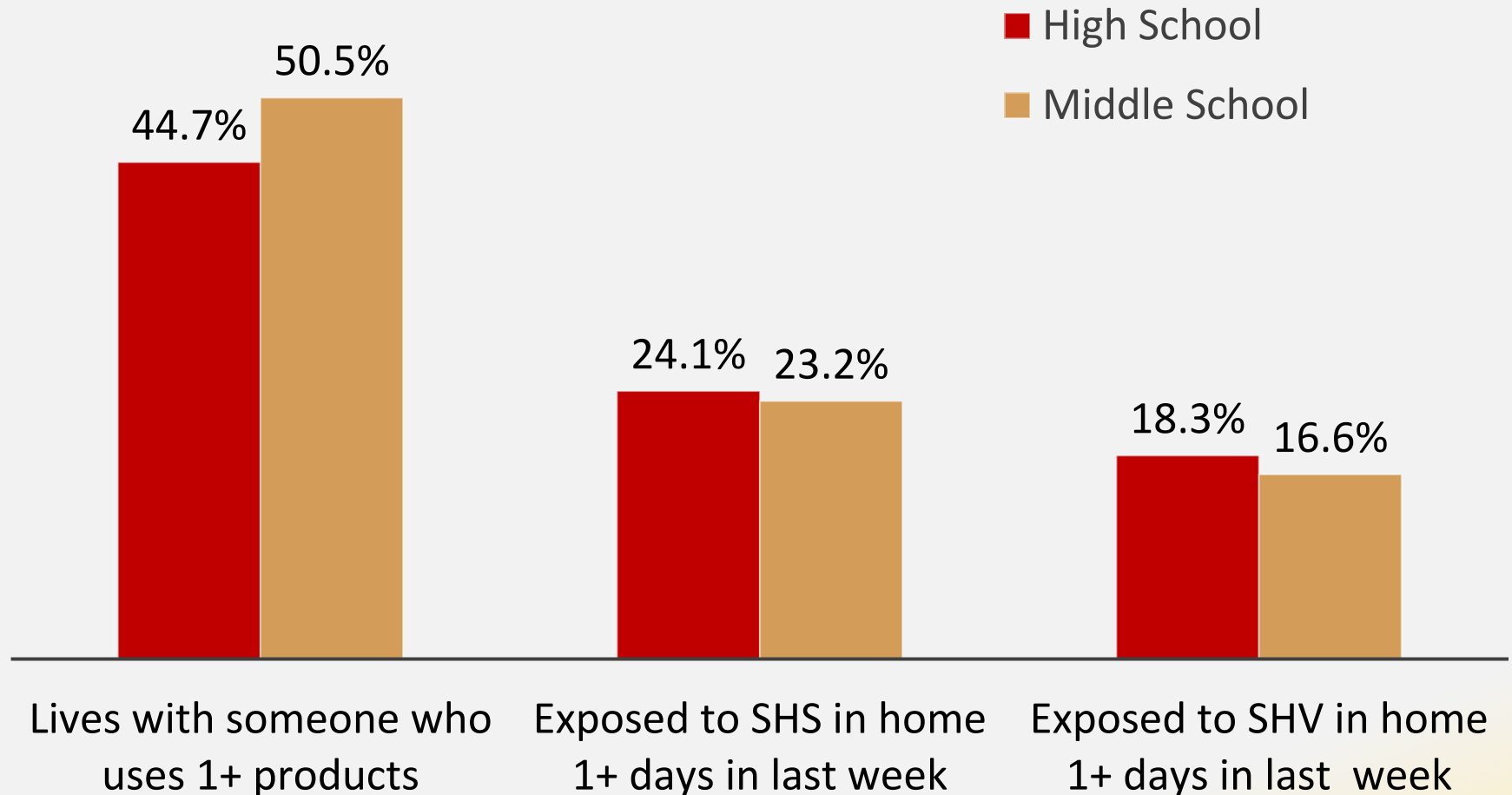


The last time you visited a health care provider* did they ask you if you used....



*Among those who visited a health care provider in the last 12 months

Exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS) & secondhand vapor (SHV)



Limitations/recommendations

- Rates of tobacco/nicotine product use among Oklahoma youth are much **lower than previously observed**, and similar to national rates.
- Comparisons over time should be interpreted with caution due to the unknown effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the change in survey mode from pencil/paper to online administration.
- More high youth are smoking **cigars/cigarillos** than cigarettes. Overall, the rate of combustible tobacco use among Oklahoma youth is higher than the national average.
- **Menthol** continues to be a preferred flavor for both cigarettes and e-cigarettes. This will be an important baseline to monitor the effect of the upcoming FDA regulations on menthol flavoring.
- New tobacco products are continually emerging and need continued surveillance.

Limitations/recommendations

- Middle school product use, especially e-cigarettes, while relatively low, is **higher than the national rate** and should be closely monitored.
- Despite T21, a large proportion of high school youth report **buying tobacco/nicotine products for themselves**.
- Delivery services as a point of access should be examined more thoroughly.
- Current users report **dependence** on nicotine, and relatively low intentions to quit.
- Youth are exposed to both tobacco prevention campaigns and pro-tobacco/nicotine messages on television, streaming and social media.
- Youth continue to be **susceptible** to nicotine and tobacco products, especially middle school students, which demonstrates the need for modernizing Oklahoma's youth access to tobacco policies and effective prevention programming.

Limitations/recommendations

- Health care providers are **not routinely asking youth** about tobacco use. This represents an opportunity for intervention.
- Youth are **exposed to products** in the home, as well as SHS and SHV.
- These results show a **decline in youth tobacco use** prevalence and potential progress in youth prevention. However, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on these survey results is unknown.
- **Resuming regular monitoring and surveillance among youth is critical to informing policy and prevention programming priorities.**



QUESTIONS?